

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 344 (Wales) – 12 July 2023

Polling district and polling place review guidance

The next compulsory polling district and polling place review period will commence on 1 October 2023, with all local authorities being required to review their UK Parliamentary constituency polling districts before 31 January 2025.

This review will also take place alongside the introduction of revised UK Parliamentary constituency boundaries, which have now been published by the Boundary Commissions for [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#), and which are expected to come into force at the next UK Parliamentary general election.

To support you with preparing for and delivering the review, we have republished our longstanding [polling district and polling place review guidance](#) in web-based HTML format. The guidance has also been updated, in consultation with the Elections, Registration and Referendums Working Group, to include specific considerations for the 2023-2025 compulsory review period.

Guidance update

Elections Act 2022 – updates to guidance to reflect forthcoming changes

As set out in [Bulletin 342](#), we are in the process of updating our core guidance to support you with the delivery of the next phase of changes arising out of the Elections Act 2022.

We have already published [our second key planning considerations guidance](#) resource, to support you in your preparations to deliver these measures, and we can now update you on our approach to providing the core guidance. We are again taking a phased approach to this, to reflect the order in which the legislation is scheduled to come into effect and when you will need to take steps to implement it.

Our initial focus is on the core guidance for EROs to support the changes to absent voting, including the introduction of online applications. We aim to publish this guidance in early September

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Information on and a link to our polling district and polling place review guidance.

Guidance update

An update on the Commission's plans for guidance for the next phase of the Elections Act 2022 changes and the May 2024 polls.

Local government elections: nomination forms

Information on and a link to revised nomination forms for principal area and community council elections.

EA Bulletins are issued on a regular basis. They are one of our key channels for communicating with Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and their staff. Past issues of Bulletins for England, Scotland and Wales are available [here](#). You can also [subscribe to the EA Bulletins](#).

Please **keep us informed** of any staff changes within your team. This will help us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date.

If there is a new RO/ERO appointment in your authority, please contact the team in Wales by e-mailing infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

We are sending you this newsletter as it contains important information about the Electoral Commission's work

2023, ahead of the [legislation](#) coming into force on 31 October 2023.

We then expect to publish updates to the core ERO guidance to support the changes to overseas electors' voting rights in November 2023, ahead of the legislation coming into force in January 2024.

We will also be producing new guidance for EROs to support the delivery of the Registration Confirmation and Review (RCR) process for EU citizens, as a result of the changes to EU citizens' voting rights. We expect to publish the guidance by the end of this year, in advance of the process commencing post-May 2024.

The updates to guidance required as a result of the other measures, such as postal vote handling and secrecy, changes to the commonly used name requirements and changes to EU citizens' candidacy rights, will be included in updates to core RO guidance in preparation for the May polls.

Guidance for May 2024 polls

We are also now working on updating our core guidance for ROs for the local government elections, Police and Crime Commissioner elections and Greater London Authority (GLA) elections scheduled for May 2024.

The full suite of core guidance for all scheduled May 2024 polls will be published in November 2023, with supporting resources following on a rolling basis.

We are reviewing the feedback we received after the May 2023 polls on the Voter Identification Evaluation Form (VIDEF) and will publish an updated version with the resources for the May 2024 polls.

Finally, we will be publishing the updated Polling Station Handbook in February 2024, in line with our usual timeframes, and will be delivering hard copies to you in advance of the polls, following our usual ordering process which will be completed early in the new year.

If you have any queries on any of this, or need any further support, please contact infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Local government elections: nomination forms

We have published revised nomination forms for candidates standing in [principal area](#) and [community council elections](#).

The revisions take account of the work that was undertaken by the Wales Electoral Coordination Board's Nominations sub-group following the polls in May 2022.

The following changes have been made:

- guidance notes have been included next to each section that needs to be completed
- page numbers have been added
- the checklist has been split into separate tables to make it more user-friendly

which is relevant to you. The newsletter forms part of the Electoral Commission's public task which has its basis in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. We will manage your personal information and contact details in line with the General Data Protection Regulation and UK data protection legislation as outlined in our privacy notice (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

- formatting has been improved to make it clearer and easier for the candidate/agent to complete

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